(5) [*For the use of Members of Committee.*]

REFERENCE PAPER.

SUBSTANCE OF THE PETITIONS ADOPTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE HOME DISTRICT.

Extracts from the Petition to the King.

We most humbly suggest to Your Majesty, that the adoption of the following propositions as the rule of law in Upper Canada, is essentially necessary to its freedom and happiness as an integral portion of the empire; and we earnestly beseech Your Majesty to direct Your Ministers to give the measures we have suggested their hearty and efficient support:

1. That the qualified electors of the colony may be fairly and equally represented in the House of Assembly.
2. That the people may by their representatives have the control of all monies whatsoever coming into the hands of the government, whether arising from taxes duties or crown lands.
3. That the land granting department (concerning the operations of which very little is known to the province), and the sale and disposal of all lands and other public property, be regulated for the future only by law.
4. That the Crown and Clergy Reserves, and all reservations of land, otherwise than for the purposes of education and roads, be abolished.
5. That the control over all statute labour, and over all other local assessments, taxes, rates, and imposts, raised or levied in the towns, townships, counties and districts of this province, be placed in the qualified electors at their town meetings; or in commissioners duly authorized by the said electors, when for county and district purposes.
6. That the undue preferences and exclusive privileges and immunities allowed and extended by the colonial government to certain religious sects or denominations, be abolished.
7. That a less expensive and more prompt and efficient system be established for the free and equal administration of justice; that matters of small amount and difficulty may be disposed of with as much regard to the legal rights of the parties as matters of greater amount and difficulty, but at a less expence; and that no fees be exacted, the tariff of which is not established by an act of the provincial legislature.
8. That the right of impeachment and the mode of trial be fully and effectually recognized and established.
9. That none of Your Majesty's Judges, nor clergymen of any denomination, be enabled to hold seats either in the executive or legislative councils, or in any way to interfere and concern themselves in the executive or legislative business of the province.
10. That the real estate of persons dying intestate may not descend to the eldest son, to the exclusion of his brethren, but be equally divided among the children, male and female.
11. That administering to your faithful Colonial people, that justice which Your Majesty has dispensed to our fellow subjects in Great Britain, Your Majesty will cause the same constitutional principle which has called your present Ministers to office to be fully recognized and uniformly acted upon in Upper Canada; so that we may see those only who possess the confidence of the people composing the executive council of Your Majesty's representative.

We humbly pray Your Majesty to disallow, annul and make void a bill passed in the last session of the parliament of this province, entitled "an act to repeal an act passed in the fifth session of the sixth parliament of this Province, entitled 'an act for granting to His Majesty a sum of money towards defraying the expenses of the civil administration of the government of this province,' and for granting to His Majesty a certain sum of money to be applied towards the payment of the expenses of the administration of Justice and the support of the civil government of this province;" as also another bill passed in the said last session, entitled "an act for vesting in Trustees the Market Square in the Town of York, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the said Town."

We would also humbly intreat Your Majesty's protection against the passage of laws in the United Kingdom Parliament, (where we have no agent legally elected by us of our free choice, to act and advise us for our interest,) effecting sudden changes in our commercial relations with Great Britain and with foreign countries; changes by which the capitals of our merchants and manufacturers are in danger of being sacrificed, and our trade, commerce and agriculture discouraged; and most especially against the passing by that Parliament of any act interfering or assuming to interfere with our internal affairs, over which they have constitutionally no legislative power whatsoever.

We are desirous that the East India Company may not obtain the renewal of their charter in such form as would secure to them a further monopoly of the tea trade of this country.

Extracts from the Petition to the House of Assembly.

Your Petitioners humbly pray your Honorable House,—

That the public debt of the province may not be augmented for any purpose whatsoever unless the project were first submitted to the people for their approbation; and that the practice of economy and retrenchment in every branch of the public expenditure be carefully enforced, so that the debt already contracted, and the interest annually accumulating thereon may speedily be liquidated, and the surplus revenues of the colony prudently applied to purposes of general utility;

That the Stockholders of the Bank of Upper Canada may not continue to enjoy a monopoly of the whole Banking business of the Province; but, that, under judicious regulations, Banks may be established in other sections of the country;

That in elections of members to serve in Parliament for any county in this Province, in which a poll shall be demanded, the votes of the freeholders may be taken at two, three, or more fixed places or stations, the most central and convenient for the electors to assemble at, and the poll kept open by the Returning Officer at each of these places for a period sufficient to enable them to have their suffrages recorded, unless the election should be otherwise sooner determined; or, that the Township Officers may be authorized to take the votes of the electors in their several Townships;

That Jurors be drawn by lot from lists of the best qualified persons in the several Towns and Townships, or appointed in some other mode less liable to partiality and abuse than an arbitrary selection of them by Sheriffs or Coroners, dependant for their appointment, income, and continuance in office, upon the will of the Executive Government.